



Information about your water, drainage, wastewater and solid waste utility services.



## Holiday Season Left You with Old Electronics?

Seattle Public Utilities will pick up and recycle TVs, computers and other electronic items from your curb for a \$20 fee. Call (206) 684-3000 to request an electronics collection. Apartment residents should contact their building manager to arrange for electronics collection.

Looking for a free option? Contact [www.ecyclewashington.org](http://www.ecyclewashington.org) or 1-800-RECYCLE for computer and TV drop-off locations.

Also visit [www.takeitbacknetwork.org](http://www.takeitbacknetwork.org) for cell phone and fluorescent light bulb drop-off locations. Some charge a fee.

## Get Help Paying Your Bill

If your household income is 70 percent or less of the state median, you are eligible to apply for the Utility Discount program, which offers Seattle residents a 50 percent reduction on their utility bills for up to 18 months. Income requirements are listed below. Customers living in federally subsidized housing cannot qualify for the discount.

Program applications and information can be found at [www.peoplepoint.info](http://www.peoplepoint.info) or by calling (206) 684-0268.

### Income Guidelines\*

Number in Household	Total Monthly Income
1	\$2,380
2	\$3,112
3	\$3,845
4	\$4,577
5	\$5,309
6	\$6,041

\*Income limits change every January 1. Program participants who are still eligible can re-apply for continued assistance every 3-18 months.



## 2010 Rate Changes

New water, sewer, drainage, and solid waste rates take effect January 1, 2010. The water and drainage rates will finance critical capital improvement projects and protect the city's environment through water quality improvements. These include capping the city's drinking water reservoirs and funding combined sewer overflow projects to help the city meet federal and state pollution standards. The new solid waste rates cover costs for the new collection contracts and service enhancements, and will also finance rebuilding the city's aging recycling and disposal stations. For more information on rates, please visit our website at [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) and click on "Billing."

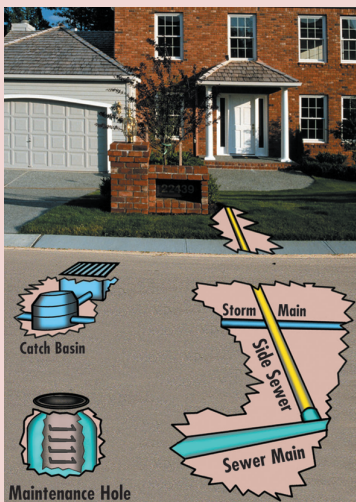
### Typical Residential Bill per Month

Service	2009	2010
Water <sup>1</sup>	\$27.74	\$32.91
Sewer <sup>1</sup>	\$46.33	\$46.70
Drainage <sup>2</sup>	\$16.85	\$17.17
Solid Waste <sup>3</sup>	\$29.20	\$32.70

<sup>1</sup> Typical residential bills assume monthly water usage of 5.5 ccf (hundred cubic feet) for water service and 5.2 ccf for sewer service.

<sup>2</sup> Drainage fees are billed for SPU as a separate line item on King County's annual property tax statements. The typical residential bill is for a parcel in the 5,000-6,999 square foot rate class.

<sup>3</sup> Typical residential solid waste service is a 32-gallon garbage container and a 96-gallon food and yard waste container.



## Side Sewers and You

Homeowners and building owners are responsible for maintaining and repairing this section of pipe that carries wastewater from your home or building's plumbing system to the public sewer main (usually located under the street). As the property owner, you are responsible for replacing any sidewalks and roadway removed during the repair, potentially costing thousands of dollars.

Maintenance is important. The primary problem associated with side sewers is sewer backups into homes or businesses. Some causes and solutions include:

- Tree root penetrating pipes, especially older ones made of clay. Rooter services can unclog a side sewer.
- Fats, oils and grease improperly disposed of down drains also cause blockages. Instead, they should be properly disposed of in a sealed container in your trash.

When there is a problem it is best to call a private company first, such as a roofer service or plumber, because the problem is likely in your private side sewer line and critical time may be wasted contacting the city. However, if sewage is coming into your home when you are not using water, you should call for a Seattle Public Utilities' maintenance crew immediately at **(206) 386-1800**.

You can also learn more by visiting [www.seattle.gov/util/sidesewer](http://www.seattle.gov/util/sidesewer). Some Seattle residents may qualify for a low-interest loan from the Seattle Office of Housing's HomeWise program to help fix their side sewer problem. For information about program guidelines or to request an application, email [homewise@seattle.gov](mailto:homewise@seattle.gov) or call **(206) 684-0244**.



## Recycle Motor Oil Curbside for Free

Did you know that Seattle Public Utilities will pick up used motor oil for free?

Just put the used oil in one-gallon plastic milk jugs with screw-on lids, and put the securely-closed jugs next to your recycling cart on your regular recycling day. There is a two jug limit per collection. There is no customer charge and no phone call is required.

Disposing of your oil properly keeps it from finding its way to Puget Sound and other waterways and hurting wildlife and habitat.

To learn about other healthy auto maintenance habits, go to [www.seattle.gov/util/cartips](http://www.seattle.gov/util/cartips). You'll also find coupons from local retailers to help you save money while you make the best decisions for your car and the environment.



## Winter Collections

Garbage, recycling, and food and yard waste pickups can be delayed during snowy and icy weather. If your container is not picked up during a storm, leave it out to be collected the following day. If weather still prevents collection, put all of your items out the next week on your regular collection day.

Collections will be on normal schedule for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 18, and President's Day, Monday, February 15, 2010. SPU customers should place their containers out by 7:00 a.m. to ensure collection.

Be the first to know! Sign up for *CurbWaste & Conserve E-News* to receive e-mail alerts on weather impacts to your services. Go to [www.seattle.gov/lists](http://www.seattle.gov/lists).

